

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

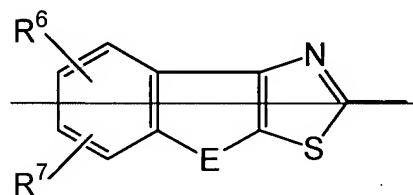
Without prejudice or disclaimer, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in this application:

Claims 1-55 Cancelled.

56. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (II):



or its prodrug; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein  $X^2$  is an optionally substituted 5-member thiazole ring or a thiazole group represented by the formula:



wherein  $E$  is  $(CH_2)_{1-3}$ ,  $O-CH_2$ , or  $S-CH_2$ ;

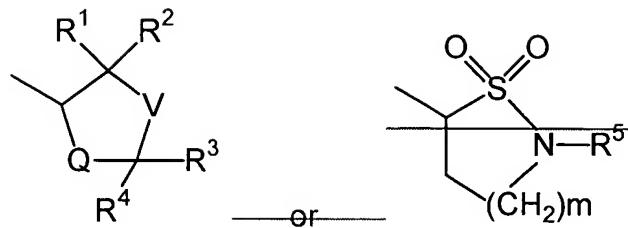
$R^6$  and  $R^7$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, a carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, an optionally substituted thienyl, or an optionally substituted phenyl;

$Y^2$  is  $-NR^GCO-(CH_2)_{0-2}-$ ,

wherein  $R^G$  is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted lower alkyl;

$Z^2$  is an optionally substituted phenylene;

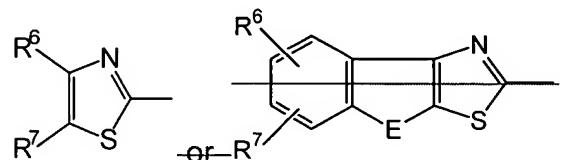
$A^2$  is a thiazolidine ring represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, and R<sup>5</sup> is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; Q and V are chosen from -S-, and -NR<sup>B</sup>-, wherein R<sup>B</sup> is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; m is 1; and

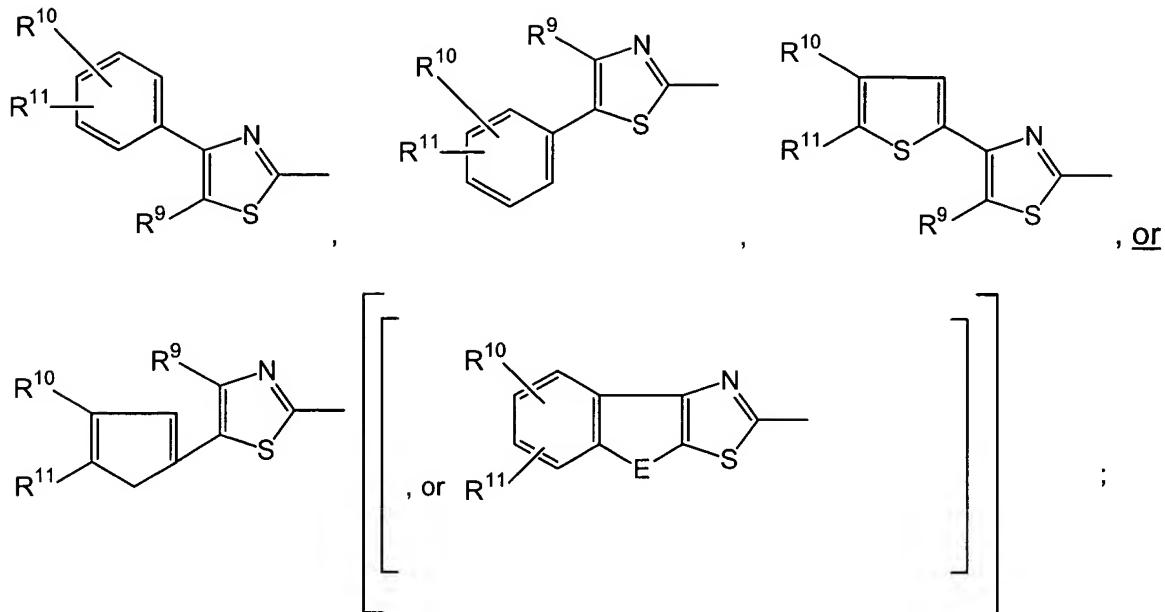
a broken line (---) represents the presence or absence of a bond.

57. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 56, wherein X<sup>2</sup> is a group represented by the formula:



wherein E is (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>1-3</sub>, O-CH<sub>2</sub>, or S-CH<sub>2</sub>; and R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, an optionally substituted thienyl, or an optionally substituted phenyl.

58. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 56, wherein X<sup>2</sup> is a group represented by the formula:

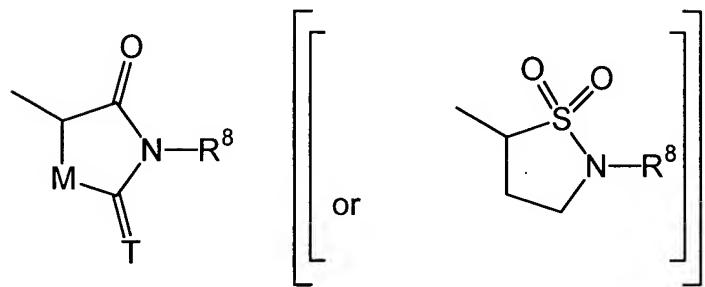


$R^9$  is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, a carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl;  
 $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, halogen, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, nitro, or optionally substituted amino.

59. (Currently Amended) A compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein  $Y^2$  is -NHCO- [[or -CONH-]].

60. (Previously Presented) A compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein  $Z^2$  is 1,4-phenylene.

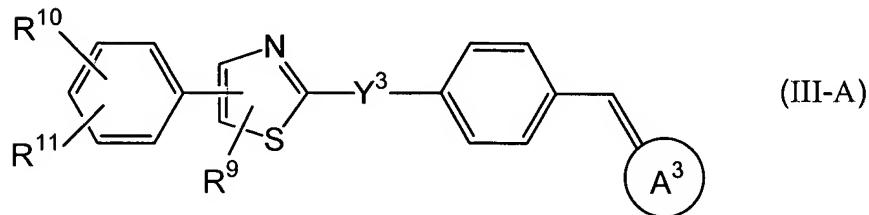
61. (Currently Amended) A compound of any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein  $A^2$  is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein  $R^8$  is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl;  $M$  is  $-S-$ ;  
and  $T$  is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

62. (Previously Presented) A compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein the broken line represents the presence of a bond.

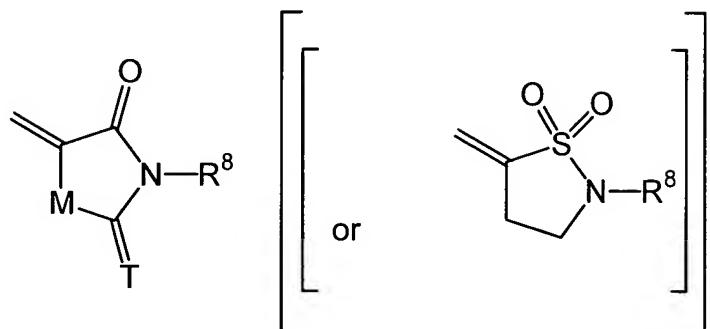
63. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula III-A:



or its prodrug; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein  $R^9$  is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, a carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl;  
 $R^{10}$  and  $R^{11}$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, halogen, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, nitro, or optionally substituted amino;

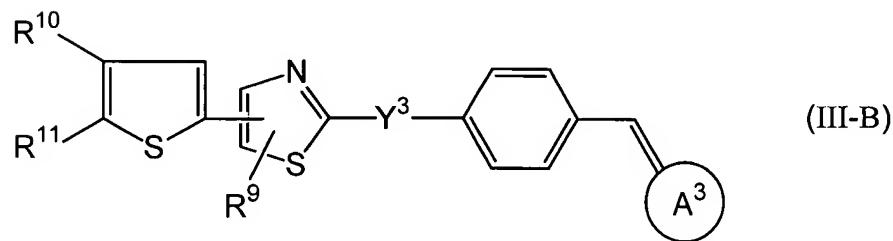
$Y^3$  is  $-\text{NHCO}-$  or  $-\text{CONH}-$ ; and

$A^3$  is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>8</sup> is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; M is  $-\text{S}-$ ; and T is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

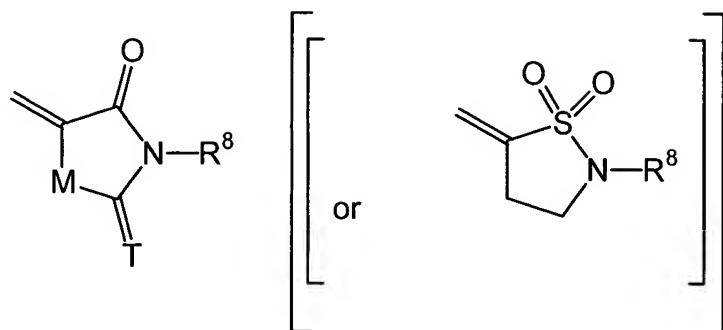
64. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula III-B:



or its prodrug; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein R<sup>9</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, a carboxy, a lower alkyloxycarbonyl, or an optionally substituted aminocarbonyl; R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> are each independently a hydrogen atom, halogen, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, nitro, or optionally substituted amino;

$Y^3$  is  $-\text{NHCO}-$  or  $-\text{CONH}-$ ; and

$A^3$  is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>8</sup> is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; M is -S-; and T is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

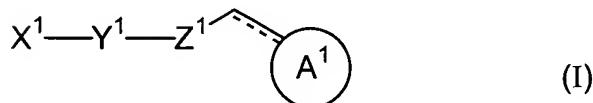
65. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, 63, or 64 as an active ingredient.

66. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition for exhibiting thrombopoietin agonism comprising as an active ingredient at least one compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, 63, or 64.

67. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to any one of claims 56 to 58, 63, or 64, wherein the compound is a platelet production modifier.

Claims 68-69 cancelled.

70. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound of the formula (I):



or its prodrug; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

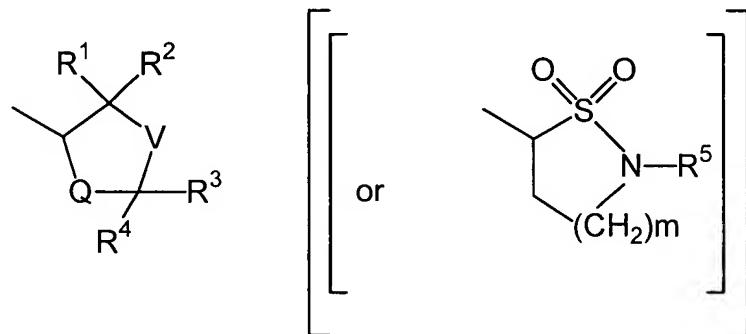
X¹ is an optionally substituted thiazole ring;

Y¹ is -NR<sup>A</sup>CO-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>0-2-</sub>,

wherein R<sup>A</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, an optionally substituted aryl, an optionally substituted aralkyl, an optionally substituted heteroaryl, or an optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl;

Z¹ is an optionally substituted phenylene;

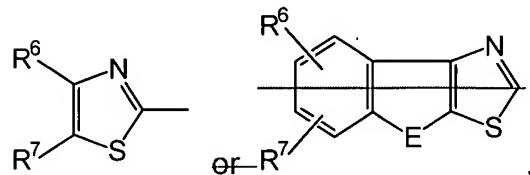
A¹ is a thiazolidine ring represented by the formula:



wherein R¹ and R² are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R³ and R⁴ are both hydrogen atoms or taken together may form an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom; R⁵ is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; Q and V are chosen from -S- and -NR<sup>B</sup>-, wherein R<sup>B</sup> is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; m is 1; and a broken line (---) represents the presence or absence of a bond.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to claim 70, wherein  $X^1$  is a group represented by the formula:

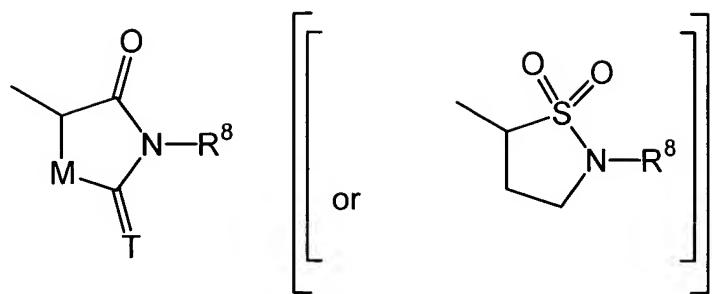


wherein  $\text{E}$  is  $(\text{CH}_2)_{1-3}$ ,  $\text{O}-\text{CH}_2$ , or  $\text{S}-\text{CH}_2$ ; and  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  are each independently a hydrogen atom, optionally substituted lower alkyl, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, optionally substituted aminocarbonyl, optionally substituted thienyl, or optionally substituted phenyl.

73. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to any one of claims 70 to or 72, wherein  $\text{Y}^1$  is  $-\text{NHCO-}$  or  $-\text{CONH-}$ .

74. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to any one of claims 70 to or 72, wherein  $\text{Z}^1$  is 1,4-phenylene.

75. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to any one of claims 70 to or 72, wherein  $\text{A}^1$  is a ring represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>8</sup> is a hydrogen atom or lower alkyl; M is -S-;

and T is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom.

76. (Currently Amended) A thrombopoietin receptor agonist composition according to any one of claims 70 to or 72, wherein the broken line represents the presence of a bond.